

Yemen to accept each other's currency

YEMEN (AP) — North and South Yemen announced Friday that their two currencies will be accepted in each country starting immediately. The decision, adopted at a meeting of prime ministers, Abdal Aziz Abdal Salam of the North and Yassine Saeed No'man of the South, is part of the steady steps the two countries are taking as they move towards merger. The merger, initially planned by end of November, is expected to be completed by mid-1986 and proclaimed May 26 when the parliamentary assemblies of the two countries hold a joint meeting in the South Yemeni capital of Aden. South Yemen's currency is the dinar, equivalent to 0.343 of the rial, with 12 rials to the dollar. The rial and the dinar now become "legal means of payment and clearing in all of the unified Yemeni homeland at a price of 16 rials against the dinar." The two prime ministers also entrusted their finance ministers with the preparation of a unified state fiscal budget before the end of the month.

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Rockets fired at northern Israel

KASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Rebels fired two Soviet-made Grad missiles at northern Israel Thursday. The Israeli-backed Voice of the South radio station said Friday. The radio, run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said there were no casualties. Senior Israeli officers visiting the scene said the number of rocket attacks against Israeli settlements had decreased compared with previous years.

Militias clash in south Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Shite Muslim militia backed by Syria and Iran clashed Friday with machine gun and rocket-propelled grenades in south Beirut, close to where most of the Western hostages are believed held. The clash, which broke out at 3:15 a.m. (0015), eased off five hours later after the Syrian army command in charge of security in Beirut's western sector sent foot patrols to disengage the combatants in the Shiyah district. Police said four people were wounded in the fire-fight between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal.

Soviet minister visits Syria, praises ties

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Power and Electrification Minister Yuri Semenov arrived in Syria Friday for a week-long visit, the official news agency SANA reported. It said Semenov would discuss commercial and economic cooperation with Syrian officials following a visit to Moscow last week by President Hafez Al-Assad. Semenov, head of the Soviet side of the permanent Syrian-Soviet technical and economic cooperation committee, praised existing ties in an arrival statement.

Karamanlis elected Greek president

ATHENS (R) — Elder statesman Constantine Karamanlis, who restored democracy to Greece in 1974 after seven years of dictatorship, was elected the country's president Friday. Although the presidency is largely a ceremonial post, the choice of Karamanlis, 83, was widely seen as strengthening the new conservative government which took office with a razor-thin majority after general elections April 8. The ruling conservative New Democracy Party has 150 seats in the 300-seat parliament but Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis has won the support of a single centrist deputy. Karamanlis received 153 votes on the second ballot when only an absolute majority was needed for victory.

ICRC resumes Sudan relief flights

NAIROBI (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) resumed relief flights into southern Sudan Friday after a six-month gap. Dominic Duff, coordinator of ICRC relief operations in southern Sudan, said a twin-engined Beechcraft flew from Khartoum to the government-held town of Wau in southwestern Sudan. At the same time, a Twin Otter flew from Likochio in northwestern Kenya to the rebel-held town of Ler on the River Nile, he told Reuters.

Israeli court rejects settler bid

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Friday dealt a fresh blow to Jewish settlers who sparked an international row when they moved into a hospice in Jerusalem's Christian quarter. Israel Radio said a district court refused to let the settlers appeal against an interim eviction notice and ordered them to pay 5,000 Israeli shekels (\$2,500) in costs.

Fadiallah links hostages to prisoners

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's most influential pro-Iranian leader and Friday the fate of the remaining Western hostages was linked to that of Arabs jailed in Israel.

Jordan Times

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Sudan sets up panel to counter exiles

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military junta, apparently sensing a foreign backlash over the execution of 28 exiles, has set up a high-powered committee to counter opponents based abroad. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Friday committee members included the foreign, education and information ministers and the chiefs of military and internal intelligence. MENA, reporting from Khartoum, said the committee would deal with what official announcement described as distorted facts and rumours spread by "counter-forces" based abroad. This appeared to refer to criticism of the executions and the junta's policies issued in recent days by political groups and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), fighting the government in the south since 1963. The junta executed the officers April 24 for their alleged part in a coup attempt it claimed on the previous day. Military ruler Omer Hassan Al Bashir later accused the rebels and party politicians in the north of masterminding the bid. Bashir himself seized power in a coup last June, toppling a civilian government which had in its three years made little progress in ending the long-running civil war on solving economic problems.

Pretoria, ANC achieve important breakthrough

sides.

The two leaders said their talks had been an important step forward. They praised each other's sincerity and determination to find a peaceful solution in South Africa's racial divisions.

"I look in the future with confidence," de Klerk said.

Mandela said the most striking feature of the negotiations had been there "cordiality."

"We have had discussions on sensitive matters in a spirit of conciliation and understanding," he said.

The ANC also is seeking amnesty for its estimated 15,000 exiles and the release of all prisoners convicted of politically motivated crimes.

So far, de Klerk has released some political activists convicted of acts that did not involve violence and offered temporary immunity to ANC officials involved in the talks.

Legislation that could provide amnesty to exiles and prisoners under consideration in parliament.

De Klerk also ordered the release from prison of Mandela, who had been convicted of planning ANC violence.

The government is demanding that the ANC renounce its largely ineffective guerrilla campaign.

De Klerk is reluctant to grant outright pardon to ANC guerrillas accused or convicted of violent attacks for fear of a white backlash. Many whites are unhappy with the government's rapid reforms and still regard the ANC as a "terrorist" group.

Official dismisses 'Mossad agent' report

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A senior Jordanian official has categorically denied a report that a Jordanian military attache was arrested two months ago and sentenced last week for allegedly working for Israel's secret service, Mossad.

"There is no basis for truth in the report," the official told the Jordan Times Thursday in reference to a story which appeared in the Arabic Jerusalem-based Arabic-language daily Al Quds Wednesday.

The Al Quds report, which followed rumours here that a senior Armed Forces officer was on assignment to the Foreign Ministry, was detained two months back, quoted Jordanian security sources as saying that the alleged Mossad agent was held after Egyptian intelligence tipped off its Jordanian counterpart.

The report did not mention the name of the alleged diplomat, but rumours had said that it was the Jordanian military attache in Pakistan.

The official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said ill-health was the reason for the return home of Brigadier Hamzeh Al Azab, military attache at the Kingdom's embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

"I am going back (to Pakistan) in about two days," said Azab, son of the former mufti of the Jordanian Armed Forces. "I came here on a visit." Azab, who is from the southern town of Ma'an, told the Jordan Times Friday.

Azab described the motive of the rumour and the Al Quds report as "an attempt to cause division and sow distrust within the Armed Forces."

The Soviets have called for a neutral Germany, but the NATO foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, Thursday, said they remain in favour of a single German state belonging to the Western alliance.

The Soviet officials, however, offered several compromises to the Soviets, saying a United Germany should not have any chemical or nuclear weapons and that Soviet troops could remain in what is now East Germany for several years.

Syria says Mubarak visit a promising start

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Friday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit produced a promising start on rebuilding Arab unity, but no miracles.

"Maybe the summit and (too) many things to do, but the foundation stone was re-set," commented the building party newspaper Al Baath.

"The Damascus summit, even if it did not perform miracles, opened the way for Arab solidarity. Maybe it put an end to the state of collapse and weakness caused by contradictory Arab positions."

Mubarak's visit to Damascus Wednesday and Thursday was the first by an Egyptian leader in 13 years and sealed a rift that resulted from the late Anwar Sadat's treaty with Israel.

But Mubarak could not persuade President Hafez Al Assad to end his long-standing quarrel with Iraq.

Al Baath said the summit had undoubtedly ended an era of division and would help the Arab world counter what it called the

Baker seeks to shift Soviet stand on Germany

BONN (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker tried Friday to persuade the Soviet Union that membership by a united Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would not upset the delicate East-West balance of power in Europe.

But Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, while pleased by U.S. plans to cancel new short-range nuclear missile deployments in West Germany, reiterated Moscow's opposition to such a move.

"We consider a unified Germany as an important factor of stability and peace in Europe," Shevardnadze said at the start of two days of talks on German unification. "For such a giant to belong to one bloc, one alliance... will not create conditions of stability."

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Velayati calls for reciprocal step by West over hostages

HELSINKI (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday that Iran will not work to free more Western hostages until Israel releases hundreds of imprisoned Lebanese.

Velayati demanded that the United States and Britain put pressure on the Israelis and reciprocate the recent release of two American hostages.

There are six Americans and four Britons among the 16 Westerners kidnapped still missing in Lebanon. The others are one Italian, one Irishman, two West Germans and two Swiss.

Ending a two-day official visit to Finland, Velayati said Israel must free "several hundred Lebanese hostages" before any steps are taken to free any of the 16 remaining hostages seized in Lebanon, who are believed held by pro-Iranian groups.

"The other side has to take practical steps ... to influence Israel and the Falangists," he said, referring to a Christian Lebanese group once allied with Israel.

"Especially the United States and Britain can persuade Israel to release these abducted people," Velayati said at a news conference.

"That is the expectation of the Lebanese groups. They have said they have taken the first step and now it is the turn of the other side to show its goodwill. We are waiting for the practical steps," he said.

Tuesday, Israeli officials offered to free Arab prisoners in exchange for three Israelis held captive in Lebanon, but indicated they would not make a deal for Western hostages alone.

U.S. President George Bush had said the day before that he had "certainly no objection" to Israel freeing some of the thousands of prisoners it holds as a goodwill gesture suggested by a Tehran newspaper.

More than 300 Arab prisoners are held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) at Al Kham just north of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Most of the Al Kham inmates are Shi'ite Muslims. The best-

known is Jawad Kaswi, captured in 1988.

In addition, Israel holds more than 5,000 Palestinians detained during the 28-month uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories. About 1,300 are being held without trial in the Ketzia Prison located in the Negev Desert.

The most prominent prisoner Israel holds is Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Shi'ite Muslim cleric belonging to Fizulat. Israel captured Obeid and two assistants on July 28.

Velayati said the Western hostages are not in "the hands of the Iranians" and that Iran had to persuade the Lebanese groups to release Robert Polhill and Frank Reed.

"Of course, we played a key role, but we worked over months," he added.

Reed, released Monday from 42 months in captivity, was on his way to the United States Friday. Polhill was released on April 22 after being held 39 months.

Velayati said "no deals had been done" for the release of the two Americans, and said that Iran had not been involved in any talks with the United States.

On Thursday, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iran was not interested in restoring ties with the United States, though he acknowledged the appreciation Bush had expressed to Iran and Syria for their help.

At a news conference in Washington, Bush said he was unwilling to make any conciliatory gestures toward Iran at this time.

Velayati said Iran would hold talks with Britain — as suggested by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Thursday — if the British government shows "respect for Islam and Muslims."

Velayati said that the main reason for severed relations between Iran and Britain "was the support of the government of

The thin, pale Reed, wearing grey trousers and a polo shirt, boarded a military van along with his family that took them to the Wiesbaden Air Base.

Reed lost 27 kilograms in captivity during which he was kept blindfolded and bound, but is otherwise in basically sound health, doctors have said.

The founder of a private school in Beirut, Reed was the second American hostage to be freed in nine days. Robert Polhill, freed on April 22, went through the same battery of medical tests and debriefings by a special U.S. State Department team seeking clues about Western hostages in Lebanon.

Nicosia (R) — Cyprus President George Vassilou has named four new ministers in his first cabinet shakeup since he took office in February 1988.

Christoforos Christofides, a dentist from Larnaca and former member of the House of Representatives, is the new minister of education replacing Andreas Philippou.

Larnaca lawyer Nicos Papaoanou replaces Christodoulos Crysanthou as minister of justice.

Pavlos Savides, a shipping company manager from Limassol, takes the Ministry of Communications and Works from Nicos Protopapas.

Iacovos Aristidou, director-general of the Ministry of Education and former head of the government planning bureau, becomes minister of labour and social insurance. He succeeds Takis Christofides who resigned last month.

They were being sworn in Friday.

Vassilou, who announced the changes Thursday, is a non-party figure who was elected with broad support, including the Communist Party. His ministers are technocrats without active party ties.

The government controls the southern two-thirds of the island, which has been divided into Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sectors since a Turkish invasion in 1975 prompted by a coup in Nicosia. The breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is recognized only by Turkey.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opens a two-day conference on biology (Petra photo)

Biology conference highlights scientific aspects in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opened a two-day conference on biology, organised by the Jordanian Society for Biological Sciences in cooperation with the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST).

Addressing the opening session, the society President Abdul Razzak Taghreedde said the conference aims at giving biologists the chance to exchange experiences in the area of scientific research.

Taghreedde outlined the society's objectives, saying that it aims at strengthening scientific ties between Jordanian and Arab biologists and improving their technical performance.

President of HCST Abdullah Touqan addressed the opening session, explaining the council's role in the field of scientific research. Touqan said the council formulates the general policy of science and technology, defines priorities and programmes, and sets the appropriate strategies for developing the scientific and technical capacities.

Taking part in the two-day

conference are 50 scientists, representing the four Jordanian universities, various scientific institutions in Jordan and representatives of the private sector laboratories.

The two-day conference is made up of six sessions, in addition to the opening session attended by ministers of agriculture, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, and tourism, in addition to the senate member, Laila Sharaf and several scientists.

The sessions, include a round symposium on the environmental situation in Jordan and protecting it from pollution, general discussions on basic biology, nutrition and medical science as well as lectures on ecology and parasites.

Participants in the second biological sciences conference sent a cable to Her Majesty Queen Noor thanking her for opening the conference and voicing their appreciation for Her Majesty's encouragement of researchers taking part in the conference.

King meets Belgian official, discusses Middle East situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Belgian parliament's foreign affairs committee Jean Gol Saturday winds up a three-day visit to Jordan during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and met with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar and Parliament members.

According to Belgian embassy sources, Gol spent Friday sightseeing at the Nabataean city of Petra in the south, before returning to Amman to prepare for his trip home Saturday.

In a statement Thursday, Gol reflected his country's keenness to help establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Speaking at an audience with the King at the Royal Court, Gol said whoever is familiar with the situation in the Middle East realises the need to put an end to all forms of extremism which has adverse effects on the region's stability and peace.

"The recent events in Jerusalem, Israel's attempt to seize property owned by the Greek Orthodox Church there and the Israeli assault on Christian clergy caused a deep shock to the Bel-

gian people and government," Gol said during the audience.

For his part, the King voiced Jordan's deep appreciation of Belgium's stand and its interest in contributing to the success of peace efforts. King Hussein said the favourable changes now taking place in the world and which are reducing world tension ought to encompass the Middle East region whose peoples yearn for peace, stability and security.

The King voiced hope that the European Community would display a greater measure of interest in stabilising the Middle East region which holds 65 per cent of the world's total oil reserves and which is now prey to numerous disputes and regional conflicts including disputes over water resources.

In reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the King said the organisation had displayed moderation and done all it was required from it to meet the requirements of peace. He said the European Community ought to better understand the Palestinian stand, otherwise Israel's intransigence and extremism will deepen and the chances for peace could be lost.

The King also spoke about the current hostile campaign against Iraq at a time when Israel is allowed to amass nuclear weapons.

National Gallery of Fine Arts celebrates 10th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the honorary president and patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Thursday patronised a dinner held on the 10th anniversary of the society, at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

Her Majesty presented royal gifts and certificates of appreciation to HH Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the board of trustees and members of the board.

The dinner was attended by HRH Princess Sarvath Al Has-

san, HH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, HH Prince Ali Ben Nayef and several ministers and supporters of the society.

The Royal Society of Fine Arts, is a cultural, non-governmental and non-profit organisation, that was established in 1979. It has an independent administrative, financial and legal status. Its independent budget and all donations it receives are tax exempted.

Islamic and Arab art is the society's main concern; it aims at

Gol met earlier with Arar and Parliament members and reiterated a Belgian parliament's resolution which called for withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestine land occupied since 1967, and the convening of an international Middle East peace conference to settle the Arab Israeli conflict.

Gol also called for the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine and denounced Israel's actions against the Palestinian people as this holiest of cities to all followers of the three great monotheistic religions a political game; a game here and a game in other parts of the world.

During his stay in Amman, Diodorus I Friday wound up a week long visit to Jordan and returned to the Holy City.

I think that this is a very tragic, very dangerous incident happening when congressmen and senators in the United States are falling over each other to call for Jerusalem to be part of the political game. This is something that is incomprehensible to me and very regrettable.

I believe that the situation is very dangerous and I hope that what has happened may shake this world and its conscience to realise the importance of Jerusalem to all of us. The city should be kept as it has been in the past, safe from hands that have no respect for what is lofty and what is dear and what is in the hearts of all believers."

The King said: "I am more than shocked. I am very angry at what I see happening in Jerusalem and what one saw developing to this point of making

King voices anger at Israel's move; patriarch of Jerusalem ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodorus I Friday wound up a week long visit to Jordan and returned to the Holy City.

During his stay in Amman, Diodorus I was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein who reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to protect the religious places in occupied Jerusalem and paid tribute to the patriarch's and the clergy's resistance against Israeli moves in the Christian Quarter of the Old City.

On the last day of the patriarch's stay here, Jordan Television released a statement by King Hussein following his meeting with the patriarch who briefed him on the situation in Jerusalem after Israeli settlers' occupation of St. John Hospice building and Israeli forces' assault on the Christian clergy in the holy places.

The King said: "I am more than shocked. I am very angry at what I see happening in Jerusalem and what one saw developing to this point of making

efforts to deal with the Israeli onslaught on the holy places and to confront Zionist moves to establish settlements and to occupy Christian holy places.

Jordan, he said, will remain strongly committed to helping the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab lands in the face of Israel's practices, the prime minister stressed.

He said the Muslims and Christians have been coexisting for centuries and protecting their holy shrines in an atmosphere of affection and close cooperation.

Diodorus I said Christians and Muslims in Jerusalem were launching a joint struggle to end Israel's occupation of the Holy City and to prevent Zionists from changing the character of Jerusalem.

Both the patriarch and the prime minister emphasised the need for the international community to put an end to Israel's atrocities and desecration of the holy places, and the seizure of Islamic and Christian cultural and historical sites in the Holy City.

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surgery," Busse said.

Taweeq told the King that a special fund had already been established in Germany to raise contributions for the establishment of an advanced medical centre in Jordan for the treatment of eye patients or to send the patients for treatment in Germany.

The professor presented the King with a video tape featuring the surgical operation he conducted in Germany on a seven-year-old boy, Jaafar Momani, last February.

King Hussein took personal

interest in the boy and arranged for his travel to a West German hospital for the operation that provided the boy with a new cornea.

King Hussein thanked Busse and Taweeq for their efforts and stressed the importance of maintaining close cooperation in medicine between Jordan and Germany.

Taweeq, a plastic surgeon living and working in West Germany was instrumental in arranging for the boy's operation to be conducted in Germany and in establishing a fund and to raising contributions for medical services.

Germany to help Jordan in the field of ophthalmology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Corneas for eye patients could be provided to the Eye Bank in Jordan from West Germany through the assistance of Professor Hulger Busse who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

The professor discussed the plan at a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein held at the Royal Court Thursday in the presence of Jordanian expatriate specialist living in Germany, Dr. Butros Taweeq.

"West German institutions will also be willing to provide training to Jordanian specialists and technicians in the field of ophthalmic arts.

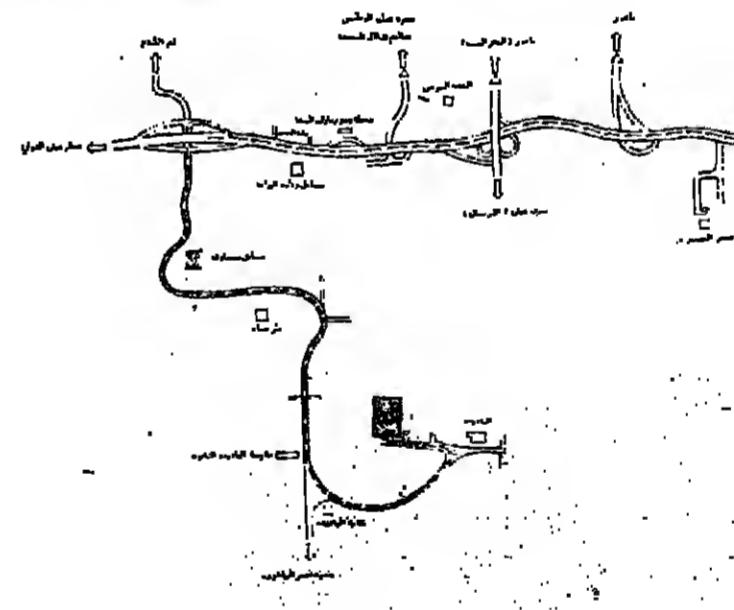
Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians

Medical Aid for Palestinians Walk - Jordan at 11/5/1990

NOTES ON SPONSOR FORMS

Date, time and venue

The walk will start at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 11th May 1990 and will follow the route outlined in the enclosed map. Participants are requested to arrive not later than 8:30. It will end at Kherbat Abu Jaber.



Stations

The Walk will be divided into substages (stations) 2 Km. apart. Participants collect a card at the Intercontinental Hotel and have a new card at each station. The final (11th) station will be at the Kherbat Abu Jaber.

How much should one walk

One can walk as he/she wants, but the minimum valid distance is 2 Km. i.e. one should get at least the first card. When ever a participant decides to quit the walk, he/she should remember to collect their valid sponsorship form.

Food & drinks

Participants with sponsor forms will be provided with food and drinks free of charge along the route at every station.

Buses & shuttles

These will be available during the walk to take the participants back to the Intercontinental Hotel or Kherbat Abu Jaber. An ambulance will be on stand by in case of emergency.

Police supervision

The police have been notified and will be available to ensure the safety of the participants.

Media Coverage

The event shall be covered by TV, Radio and the local newspapers.

Collection of money

After completing the walk, participants should get their validated forms back with the money corresponding to the number of sponsors on each form, back to the organising committee not later than 25th of May 1990.

Lottery

A lottery shall be organised within the J.M.A.P.'s month. There are several valuable prizes of which the first prize is a 1989 model B.M.W. Tickets shall be sold for JD 5.

Extra forms can be obtained by contacting us on the above address.

Thank you for helping us to help the sick and needy.

Jordan, Egypt to boost cooperation

CAIRO (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramalab Saturday open talks here to promote the functions of the Egyptian-Jordanian Holding Company which carries out projects in the two countries.

The two ministers will review new projects which the holding company plans to carry out in the coming stage, Petra said.

Upon arriving in Cairo Dr. Fariz said the company's activities and projects during 1989 will be reviewed along with bilateral coordination in industry, trade and agriculture. According to Makramalab, who met Fariz at the airport, special attention will be given to the holding company's lean meat production project now being carried out in Egypt.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Araby also arrived in Cairo for a three-day visit and talks with his Egyptian counterpart Yousef Wali. The talks, according to Petra, will deal with cooperation in the field of agriculture and launching fisheries industries and reclamation of arid land. Araby said he would tour several Egyptian agricultural projects.

Pharmacists stress need for research

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the four-day pharmaceutical conference Friday stressed the need to give scientific research centres and drug control laboratories a special attention in view of their role in advancing drug industries.

At the conclusion of their meetings, they also called for supporting the veterinary drug industry and for subjecting imported veterinary drugs and those locally produced to control at the

drug quality control labs.

They also called for drawing up a new drug policy, aimed at ensuring the provision of good drugs at reasonable prices, and called for lifting protectionism on locally produced drugs, with a view to create competition between locally-produced and imported drugs.

Participants further called for reconsidering the regulation of the technical committee in charge of registering drugs to avoid any

delays in registering and releasing drugs.

Furthermore, participants stressed the need for unifying the prices of drugs at pharmacies, and called on the new drug industries to produce new kinds of drugs, in an effort to complement the already existing products.

The conference discussed ten working papers on the use of medical plants in providing raw material for local drug industries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

• Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

• Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shabab" (The Witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

BAZAAR

• Charity bazaar displaying brass and woodworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the Jordanian environment and Islamic and cultural books at Al 'Awda Club, Zarqa.

FILMS

• French video entitled "La route des géants" at the French Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

• German video entitled "Maria Stuart" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Joe D. in 1985

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Defence — a legitimate right

THE COUNTRIES seizing pipes destined for Iraq are increasing by leaps and bounds with no legitimate reason being offered to explain this kind of piracy. Especially troubling the arbitrary decisions taken by such countries to confiscate goods destined for a third country. Even if the Iraqi-bound pipes will be used for rocketry purposes, one is at a loss to find a valid justification under international law to seize such goods and equipment. Since when countries cannot import components for their national needs be they pipes or airplanes or ballistic missiles? If owning, possessing or importing defensive or even offensive armament needs a certain licensing procedure by some international organisation or another, then one may see some logic in the ongoing efforts to frustrate Iraq's determination to stand up on its own feet and defend itself against blatant threats from the East or the West.

All of this leads to one conclusion, namely, that Iraq is being ostracised for its courage to defend itself and its being made the subject of a well orchestrated and hateful campaign for no reason other than offering the kind of response for which the Arab Nation has waited for such a long time.

Had the countries accepting to be part of this Israeli-inspired and Western orchestrated campaign against Iraq in particular and the Arab World in general been even-handed in their concern about the proliferation of mass destructive weapons in the Middle East they would have found many opportunities in the past to strike against Israel's nuclear armament programme while it was still in its gestation period. Instead of nipping in the bud Israel's increasing threats against the stability and security of the entire Middle East region, such countries have decided to show their true colours vis-a-vis the Arab-Israel conflict by adopting a biased policy against the Arabs. This is then the time for the Arab countries to stand united and firm against the ongoing blockade being imposed on Iraq.

Trade and commerce are still potent weapons that the Arab World can resort to in defence of Iraq's legitimate determination to face up to Israel's nuclear threat even in the wake of the relaxation of tension between the East and West. When the Arab summit convenes, it would be opportune to deliberate over the options available to the Arab countries to defend themselves and their interests.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i daily on Friday commented on the European Community's stand vis a vis the Middle East problem in the light of statements by the chairman of the Belgian parliament's foreign affairs committee Jean Gol, who expressed Europe's concern over the assault on the Christian clergy and continued Israel's mal-practices in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The paper said that Gol, who had learnt more about the situation in the holy city and the occupied Palestinian lands from His Majesty King Hussein, said that Israel's practices came as shock to his country and the European people at large. The King has called on Belgium and the rest of the European Community nations to exert double efforts to achieve peace and ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab lands, the paper noted. The King explained that the Middle East region, which holds more than 65 per cent of the world's oil, should be kept as a zone of peace and stability and that the world community ought to act speedily to end the regional conflicts, the paper added. What is needed now, the paper concluded, is to see Europe taking practical action and serious steps towards the establishment of peace and ending Israel's aggression on the Arab people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises certain sectors of the public who tend to use water excessively and praises the Water Authority of Jordan for embarking on an early summer water distribution programme to help make sufficient water supplies for all people. Nazih says in his daily column that Jordan has scarce water resources while the growing population continues to increase consumption, and therefore everything possible should be done to stem the wastage of precious water resources. The writer says that the distribution programme is deemed necessary every summer because of the fact that people tend to use larger amounts of water in the summer on the one hand, and due to the presence of large numbers of vacationers from the Gulf countries on the other. But, he notes, that since the programme will be applied anyway, the Water Authority should set to it that it is implemented in full and that its teams of workers, engineers and technicians remain committed to carry out repairs to the water networks and ensure water supply to all regions.

Sawt Al Shaab daily expressed great delight over a visit to Damascus by Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak which, it said, has now paved the ground for a real reconciliation among various Arab countries. The paper said that the visit, after a 1/2 year period of estrangement between Cairo and Damascus, is bound to pool their resources towards dealing with pressing issues of concern to the whole Arab Nation. The visit to Damascus has resulted in a halt of all propaganda campaigns between Damascus and Baghdad, and this is a very important development indicating that reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad is now closer than ever before, the paper noted. It said that every Arab effort is needed at the present moment to help confront the formidable challenges and dangers posed to the nation.

View From Amman

Arabs according to Zionists: Grasshoppers at best

CAN one argue in a logical manner with a fanatic? A zealot whose ideology has its roots in no less an authority than the distorted understanding, or even deliberate misunderstanding of the word of God? Zionism traces its roots to the mysterious and cloudy ideas that gave rise to the ascendancy and primacy of the God Yahweh and the concept of the "chosen people."

Zionism is an ideology that not only elevates and exalts the position of the Jews but has another side degenerating all other peoples to the status of Goym. As the strength of Zionism and its terrible outreach and efficiency increased in this past century, its disdain of and arrogance towards others, especially the Arabs, deepened. The Arab-Israeli struggle since the conclusion of the First World War added other dimensions to the hatred the Zionists feel towards us. Instead of softening their misguided hatred, Hitler's inhuman and terrible treatment of

the Jews increased the intensity of their enmity towards others especially the Arabs. Having succeeded in decisively influencing the policies and politics of the entire Western world, the Jews have totally failed with the Arabs who stand between them and their final victory. That the Arabs are innocent of their plight, indeed their bad treatment at the hands of the west, is a factor they have chosen to forget.

The dehumanising and the depersonalising of the Arab, turning him, in the eyes of the world, into an ugly creature remains a necessity in the Zionists' bid to achieve their aims. How else can one explain the hate propaganda and the deliberate distortion not only of the Arab image, but of our culture, history and values as well? How else can one explain the atrocities that continue to be committed daily against the Arabs wherever they may be? How else can one explain the balding of homes in Palestine, the eradication of almost

800 Palestinian villages since 1948, and even the uprooting of Palestinian olive trees? The Israeli soldiers, well fed and well-armed, crushing to pulp the hand of a young Palestinian boy so he may never be able to hold a stone again?

Behind it all, behind all the dreadful and ugly acts is a terrible ideology built on the very exclusivist and racist concept it purports to fight in the legacy of Nazi Germany. In a book entitled *The Arab Mind*, John Laffin remarks with a horrible simplicity: "We are left, then, with some profoundly significant conclusions which anybody dealing with the Arabs must understand....the Arab means what he says at the moment he is saying it... He is neither a vicious nor, usually, a calculating liar but a natural one." On another page he says "...he shouts, gets excited, he boasts, he threatens, he rebukes... this is the normal way in which the Arabs communicate with each other...". The simplistic finality of the ugliness of this state-

ment, made by a supposed intellectual who, he says, spent many years studying the Arabs, cannot be fathomed by rational human beings who have even a trace of humanity left in them. And this was said in 1975.

This inhuman arrogance on the part of Israeli/politicians and officials finds itself filtering down to Israeli school children, as several studies continue to reveal. During their contacts Menachem Begin spoke to President Jimmy Carter of the Arabs as "subhumans". Earlier Golda Meir proclaimed, "Palestine did not exist; therefore, there were no Palestinian people; and thus there is no problem." The reduction of the Palestinians, indeed the Arabs in the Zionist mind is a frightful phenomenon that translates itself into the inhuman treatment Israel administers daily against the intifada.

While Begin spoke of the Arabs as "subhumans" Shamir thinks of them as "grasshoppers" and Eitan, the former

Israeli army chief of staff, in a Kafkayesque though grotesque manner refers to them as "two-legged animals" or "dragged cockroaches in a bottle." I wonder why Mr. Shamir thinks of us as grasshoppers? What does he have against the poor creatures anyway? No one condemned Sharon when he instructed Menachem Begin to the soldiers of the northern front, "the only good Arab is a dead Arab..." The catalogue of such ugly quotations can go on and on. But that is not the point, the point is that unless we prove otherwise, unless we convince them and the world otherwise, by building our societies, our strength, they, whom we somehow must tame, will begin to think of us in terms other than the present ones. Otherwise the charade of the so-called "peace process" will continue and more, in the meantime, will be lost.

with him? How can one conclude a peace treaty with "sub-human" "cockroaches"? Those you crush since they are a plague: an infestation.

The month of April, 1990 witnessed the coincidence of the great feast of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. For both Muslim and Christian Arabs, the occasion was once again a sad one, reminding them of their lost lands, their lost dignity and their destroyed status in their own lands.

Slowly but surely we will begin to rebuild confidence in ourselves, our culture and our right to life with dignity. The first and most important element of the equation is to fight against the weaknesses in ourselves. That is the greatest Jihad. It is only then that others including the Zionists, whom we somehow must tame, will begin to think of us in terms other than the present ones. Otherwise the charade of the so-called "peace process" will continue and more, in the meantime, will be lost.

On March 10, an open letter from Mario Carera, coordinator of the Swiss Labour Community Swissaid, to Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the Fund, appeared in a Swiss newspaper, 24 heures. A translation of that letter and Camdessus' response to Carera are reprinted from the IMF Survey.

Don't drive the poor to despair

By Mario Carera

YOUR visit to Switzerland on March 13, Mr. Camdessus, prompts us to take the opportunity to appeal to you.

You are the Managing Director of the IMF, the true financial policeman of this planet. This title is not exaggerated: the Third World debt crisis, with the accompanying human suffering and the ecological pillage in order to pay the debt gives you the most prominent role in the international strategy now in place to face the debt problem.

There is a need for new strategies, which I would like to outline.

The conditionality imposed by the IMF on poor overindebted countries has to be modified: budgetary austerity yes, but it should be directed, as a priority, on expenditures such as military and diplomatic outlays, on prestige investments devoid of any benefit, which are encouraged by the countries, industries, and banks of the North.

You might argue that such an approach is an intolerable outside interference. Let's call a spade a spade: through "conditionality," the IMF interferes by definition in the national policies of the countries concerned. It is a matter of "targetting" conditionality: for development, distribution of wealth, or protection of the environment. Or maybe, for the support of political regimes, oftentimes non-democratic, hatched by the people.

The 1989 IMF Annual Report rightly remarks that "it is important that the external environment be favourable: positive terms of trade, buoyant markets, and lower interest rates." Yet, one of these "factors of economic progress" is present: the prices of most raw materials are declining; protectionism increases in the North as soon as countries in the South export finished products; and interest rates largely reflect the vagaries of U.S. monetary policy. Hence our question: is it equitable to impose adjustment programmes on the poor countries of the South, if the rich North does not adjust as well? Symmetry is in order.

Measures to reduce the debt, linked to actions to protect the poor and the environment, are the first conditions for a resumption of development. Yet, at a time when governments in the North are beginning to write off certain debts, the commercial banks procrastinate while cashing heavy interest payments on their credits. You are well aware that all major banks (American, German, ...and Swiss) have now built up large loan loss reserves. Only international pressures (from governments, public opinion, the IMF...) will convince them to participate in correcting their past mistakes. Again, symmetry in the effort is required: government, and, above all,

competence of your experts.

Yet, while you have been leading the fight against the Third World debt for a whole decade, the debt has increased from less than \$800 billion in 1982 to \$1,290 billion at the end of 1989, according to the IMF's own publications. Not even one overindebted country of the forty which you are in the process of "adjusting" has been able to overcome its debt problem.

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the people of countries in the South pay, as well as, to an extent, governments of the North; it is therefore the turn of the large international banks to erase part of the debt. Why don't you tell them more forcefully to do so?

On our side, through the petition Debt Reduction, a Matter of Survival, we ask the (Swiss) federal authorities to get more involved in debt write-offs, linked to development efforts in the South. If your debt reduction strategy were geared to development — and not only to major macroeconomic balances — you would have, Mr. Managing Director, the public opinion support in the North as well as in the South. All the polls indicate it: aid for development — of the South as well as population — is supported by the majority of the North's population, so long as it improves the conditions of the poorest.

Today, this improvement is based on the premises of debt reduction and on a new type of conditionality geared to serve the impoverished urban and rural masses. And the IMF is at the heart of that challenge. Switzerland would honour its tradition of humanitarianism and cooperation if it stressed its fundamental demands (for those premises) when seeking membership at the IMF. This is, in any event, our "conditionality" with regard to that possible membership.

Out tasks to advise countries on economic policy mat-

Yes, but IMF can only advise

By Michel Camdessus

I READ with great interest your "open letter" to me in the March 10-11 issue of 24 heures. Since then I have had the pleasure of meeting you and other representatives of non-governmental organisations involved in cooperation with the Third World during my recent visit to Bern. However, I do feel obliged to give the readers of 24 heures a brief summary of my responses to your comments. Our objectives are basically the same: give the poor good reason to hope for a better future and apply our energies unstintingly to that end. For this hope to become a reality, the International Monetary Fund, taking into account its specific mission, is endeavouring to convince all its member countries to adopt the economic policies which it has learned from long experience which can lead to lasting, environmentally sound growth, even for countries heavily handicapped by indebtedness, excessive government expenditure, bloated bureaucracies, and economies stifled by overregulation.

This often involves intense reform, or, as we say, adjustment efforts. However, neither the poorest countries nor the poorest social groups should have to bear a disproportionate share of the burden, which implies, among other things, being able to provide countries with financing at acceptable terms during this critical phase of their adjustment. Therefore, with the generous support of your country and many others, we are attempting to provide the poorest countries undertaking such reforms with financial resources at the lowest possible cost: 0.5 per cent interest rather than 9 to 10 per cent, if not more, and repayable in ten years after a grace period of five and one half years.

You go on to ask, however, whether "conditionality" should be more closely geared to development, a more equitable distribution of wealth, and environmental protection. We share these objectives. What can we do to achieve them within the framework of our rules and regulations?

Out tasks to advise countries on economic policy mat-

(Continued on page 5)



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Opinion & Analysis

Features

N-Sea environment conference falls short of high expectations

By Wolfgang Koch

THE HAGUE North Sea conference was an undoubted failure. North Sea states agreed on nothing more than anti-pollution measures that are already in force in Germany. They were not even prepared to accept German standards in general terms.

That is not enough. The consequences will be painfully apparent to all in the some-to-distant future.

Two years ago, when the North Sea and Baltic were overgrown with algae and hundreds of dead seals were washed ashore, marine pollution made headline news.

Toxins, heavy metals, sewage, pesticides, fertiliser, detergent, plastic, oil, radioactive substances and other waste produced in riparian industrial states and pumped or released in one way or another into the North Sea and the Baltic were catalogue in exhaustive detail.

No-one has since been able to claim that not enough was known about the problem.

Ten years ago the council of environmental advisers to the Federal government warned Bonn of the consequences and called for counter-measures to be undertaken.

Six years ago Interior (now Transport) Minister Friedrich Zieglermann, whose portfolio included the environment, convened the first North Sea conference in Bremen.

No-one was expecting a decisive breakthrough the first time round, but countries that took part did at least undertake to be more careful about ensuring that fewer toxins found their way into the sea and agreed to step up inspection procedures.

At the second conference, held in London in 1987, the decisions reached were more specific. Input of harmful toxins and nutrients was to be halved by 1995 and the dumping of industrial waste in the North Sea was to end by 1990.

In the Federal Republic, where the dead seals had upset public opinion and stepped up the pace, stricter sewage purification regulations were introduced.

German acid effluent is no longer dumped into the North Sea. The incineration of chemical waste at sea is no longer permitted. The use of a number of pesticides has been banned.

What Environment Minister Klaus Topfer has already achieved is enough to ensure that Bonn will fulfil the terms agreed in London.

But what use is that when neighbouring states won't follow suit? Bids to halve toxin input are doomed to failure unless all

North Sea states purify their sewage and effluent. In the Dutch capital they weren't even able to agree on a second, biological stage of sewage treatment. In Germany the third stage, aimed at halting the flow of nitrates, is fast being introduced on a nationwide basis. Britain brazenly ignores earlier commitments and continues to pump industrial effluent and sewage sludge into the North Sea.

Prince Charles, who so staunchly championed the North Sea at the London conference, has either not been given a hearing or not been taken seriously in his own country.

As long as the North Sea is not yet dead, the British seem to feel, it can continue to serve as a convenient garbage dump. They conveniently overlook the fact that the North Sea is in a critical state.

Early this year the Bonn Research Ministry drew attention to recent cases of physical deformation of fish in the German Bight.

Britain is not entirely to blame. Despite strenuous efforts to improve the position the Rhine is still the largest carrier of toxic waste and hazardous substances into the North Sea, and the Federal Republic is a substantial contributor to its input.

West Germany is the leading industrial country in Europe and, despite its strict environmental regulations, still a major pollution offender.

So the Bonn government is duty bound to constantly improve its environmental track record, and it must do even better even if other countries are not yet ready to follow suit.

Bon's responsibility for the environment is on the increase as German unification looms larger. The GDR has a lot to answer for, and much to make good, in the environmental sector. The EEC is badly in need of environmental care and attention, and the sea into which it flows — the North Sea — will stand to benefit.

Whether that alone will be enough is doubtful. The measures planned are aimed solely at reducing pollution growth. They have failed to prevent a steady increase in overall pollution.

Inevitably, one wonders how long nature will take this treatment. Once the excitement about German unity has subsided, we will have to pay closer attention to making environmental protection more effective. Otherwise nature will take its revenge one day soon, reacting inexorably and harshly — *Stuttgarter Zeitung*.

IMF can only advise

(Continued from page 4)

we speak out against useless military expenditure, or prestige projects, even if we are unable to make Fund assistance conditional on the reduction of this or any other specific category of expenditure.

The debt problem is huge. It is not surprising that it is taking so long to solve, considering that it is a matter of correcting the collective errors of almost two decades. Moreover, the Bretton Woods institutions cannot solve the problem of world debt alone. Like you, I consider that the commercial banks, which share responsibility for these debts, should do more to help ease the debt burden when the indebted countries are doing their utmost to put their economies in order. In the long term, this can be of benefit to the banks as well as to the indebted countries. Overall, the debt cannot be paid unless the growth of the Third World is ensured. The Fund reiterates this constantly and facilitates the gradual reduction of the debt by granting loans to countries which negotiate debt and debt-service reduction arrangements with their creditors. We shall not allow ourselves to be discouraged, because progress is slow. Each time a country seriously commits itself to such an effort, we support it fully.

Israelis demolish homes

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking with reporters on the White House driveway, Kollek said, "I have no doubt that the president has no objection to Jews settling all over Jerusalem without any exception."

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said later that Bush "believes Jews and non-Jews ought to act in a manner that does not threaten the city's comity or in any way prejudice prospects for the peace process."



SCENES FROM THE INTIFADA: With the Palestinian uprising poised to enter its 29th months, the Israeli occupation authorities are steadily tightening their grip by stepping up arrests and widening scope of detentions of Palestinians. Photos here show some scenes from the occupied territories (UNRWA photos)



'Your life or your jacket' — Chicago's new problem

By Sarah Nordgren
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — It is a modern urban phenomenon in America: Kids robbing — and sometimes killing — other kids over the hottest designer sneakers, sunglasses or athletic jackets.

In Chicago alone, four young men have died in little more than a year in violent confrontations over multi-coloured, satiny jackets, which are splashed with athletic team logos across the back.

On an icy day this past winter, an 11-year-old boy was forced to hand over his \$61 Gym shoes to four youths, then walk several blocks to his home barefoot, one of scores of incidents that occur each month, Chicago police say.

"Kids who try to keep their jackets are beaten or killed," Chicago police commander Solie Vincent said. "It's a very cold,

callous frame of mind."

To combat the problem, schools from Baltimore to Miami to Los Angeles are falling back on an old idea: Dress codes.

Some public schools are even requiring uniforms, traditionally associated with private schools.

"It's a definite trend," said Tim Callahan, of the National Association of State Boards of Education. "If clothing becomes a disruption to education, then we certainly are supportive of removing that barrier."

"Starter" jackets, the flashy jackets named for the manufacturer Starter Sportswear Inc., have triggered at least four murders in Chicago, police said.

In a grim acknowledgment of the garment's popularity, the police department last year created a separate category for "Starter jacket murders" in its citywide statistics.

Educators say dress codes that

eliminate some popular items and, in some cases, gang colours, not only help to stem violence but allow students to concentrate on learning.

"We try to discourage children from buying hot items," says Jim Murray, assistant principal at a middle school in a troubled Chicago neighbourhood. "When they don't wear those items to school, they don't have problems."

Alberta Mitchell, a counselor at Hendricks Academy, said a new uniform policy instituted at the Chicago Public Elementary School was "changing attitudes."

"We are trying to eliminate the problem of children feeling like they have to have designer-type clothes. It seems to have a calming effect," she said.

In many of the nation's largest public school districts, dress codes are the prerogative of individual schools.

In Baltimore, uniforms are recommended, but not mandatory, for elementary school students, and a dress code is suggested for secondary schools. Educators say uniforms now are the norm at 74 of the city's 118 elementary schools.

But the new policies have not been cheered in all quarters.

School officials can't recall any crimes over clothing since the police was instituted last fall, and Baltimore police say the problem virtually has disappeared.

"It still happens, but not with any frequency," said police spokesman Dennis Hill.

In the next academic year, high schools in Detroit will have the option of adopting a dress code.

The new policy by Detroit's board of education was prompted in part by the December shooting of a student over his \$135 goose-down jacket.

In one New York City neighbourhood, a high school principal earlier this year barred students

from wearing removable gold caps on their teeth, saying the faddish caps were robbery waiting to happen.

But the new policies have not been cheered in all quarters.

"Parents seem to really like the idea," said Sheli Erlich, a spokesman for the Los Angeles public school system, the nation's second-largest. "It certainly cuts down the amount of arguing in the morning over what the child should wear in school."

Meanwhile, some parents are imposing their own dress code when schools do not.

"I have two daughters, one senior in high school," says Charles Hill, who heads security for 40 Chicago schools. "I don't entertain the thought of Starter jacket."

"We want our kids to have everything," he said, "but I don't want our kids to have something that endangers them."

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OPEC faces credibility question as prices slide despite output cutback

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

GENEVA — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) leaders Friday faced a credibility problem after the market greeted their promise to cut excess oil output by dropping prices by \$1 a barrel.

"Is it really the market or is it speculators?" asked OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algeria.

But he and others agreed it may take time to convince buyers that OPEC, despite a recent record of quota violations, really would reduce output by a proposed six per cent.

Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Hisham Nazer, said he had already given instructions for a Saudi cutback.

"I do not understand the negative reaction of the market," he said.

A glut created by excess OPEC production has brought world prices down since January by some 25 per cent, which led Boussena to call this week's emergency talks.

Initial negative reaction to the final accord reached on Thursday was based partly on lack of detail in the announcement.

There was no signed resolution, although Boussena noted that signatures had not stopped quota violations in the past.

Nor did it say how big the voluntary cuts being pledged by individual members would

be. OPEC simply said they added up to 1,445 million barrels per day (BPD) off an estimate of total OPEC output in April of 23.5 million BPD and that they would apply to the end of June.

Officials referred reporters to a Reuter monthly estimate of OPEC output and asked them to do their own arithmetic. But some ministers indicated their nation's April output, from which they were cutting, was not quite the same as estimated.

Based on Reuter figures, cuts are indicated by the big Gulf producers of about 430,000 bpd for Saudi Arabia and some 400,000 bpd for Kuwait.

Oil industry executives said the crucial thing was not the small print of the mathematics, but whether Saudi Arabia and Kuwait really do sell appreciably less oil.

Nazer told Reuters in an interview: "I have already instructed our companies to implement the agreement. As soon as these instructions reach the market, I am sure that the market will turn around."

Kuwait has reneged on previous pledges to cut output. Its minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, replied "of course" Friday when reporters asked if he was serious about the new accord.

"The spirit of cooperation continues through the agreement," he said. The market would realise the 13 members were

cooperating and "eventually... prices will respond more favourably."

Boussena, for his part, argues that OPEC is now facing a real emergency and that fear of prices crashing as they did in a 1986 glut to below \$10 per barrel will result in a political resolve to curb production.

June futures for North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded crude oil, dropped one dollar on Thursday as details emerged of the OPEC accord. On Friday they eased again to around \$16.35 per barrel.

Peter Gignoux, a vice-president with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton in London, said it was risky to forecast where the slide may end "but I do not think we have got another 1986."

Russ Hill, a European-based trader, said: "A lot of people want to see firm evidence of OPEC's good behaviour."

Even then, he added, it might take time for prices to rebound because stocks were full and surplus oil produced and afloat. It could take six to eight weeks before the market felt any effect from taps being turned down at the wellhead.

But Geoff Pyne, an energy economist with finance house UBS-Philips and Drew, thought OPEC bad at least "staved off a catastrophe." He believed there had been "a knee-jerk reaction in the market... the agreement was better than nothing."

IMF, World Bank start their semi-annual meeting

Bankers slam U.S. debt strategy, call for changes

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A worldwide banking group warned Thursday that banks would not put up money to back the U.S. strategy for attacking the Third World's trillion dollar debt mountain unless changes were made.

"If they want us in the game, they better think about enhancing its attractiveness," Barry F. Sullivan, chairman of the Institute of International Finance, told a news conference.

His warning came as economic policymakers from more than 150 nations began to arrive here for the semi-annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank starting Friday. They continue until Tuesday.

The institute, which counts most of world's big banks as its members, complained that the world's 15 largest debtor nations were behind on their payments to the banks by more than \$18 billion.

Weaken the system

"Toleration of arrears to banks... weakens the (world's) financial system," said Sullivan, who is also chairman and chief executive officer of the First National Bank of Chicago.

Bankers are particularly incensed that the IMF has pressed ahead with the new debt plan without waiting for developing nations to bring their payments to the banks up to date.

The year-old strategy, the brain-child of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, calls for big reductions in the bank debt and interest rate costs of Third World nations which carry out tough economic reforms.

U.S. policymakers have bailed the plan as a great success.

"We've made a real dent in trying to reduce the burden on Third World countries," Brady told a conference Wednesday.

The increasing arrears are a major worry to both banks and governments. The problem of what to do about interest owed to the fund could further delay an effected \$60 billion increase in the fund's resources. That money

is wanted for loans to help countries both in the Third World and Eastern Europe.

So far no sympathy with the bank's problem has appeared among the governments. Some of their leaders have complained that the banks are not making enough new loans.

For 1990 West Germany should be in second place with 3.5 per cent, but yield that position to France and Canada with an expected 3.1 per cent in 1991.

Officials warned, however, that their figures could not take full account of German unification. German forecasts see that as a sharp spur to growth.

The United States, the world's biggest economy, is expected to lag behind with a 1.7 per cent increase this year and 2.3 per cent next year.

The fund classes only 22 countries among its 152 members as industrial.

Major debtors to banks are mostly the larger and more prosperous countries of Latin America. Argentina was farthest behind in its interest payments: \$6.15 billion in March. Brazil was second, \$5.3 billion behind in its payments.

The back interest owed to the fund is due largely from African countries, few of which have been able to borrow much from banks. Sudan, about 1.2 billion behind, is the most important, followed by Zambia and Peru.

Peru is the only country on both lists.

Rosy outlook

No recession is in sight for industrial countries, things are looking up in the Third World for the first half of the 1990s and Eastern Europe could become a working means by which to put your ambitions to the test.

The IMF's semi-annual "world economic outlook," published Thursday, projected a rosy future — provided governments carry out the kind of policies it wants to see: lower budget deficits, balanced world trade, privatisation of government-owned business. It foresees world production

growing by 2.25 per cent this year and rebounding to last year's three per cent in 1991 — though not to the four per cent of 1988.

Japan leads the growth parade of the major industrial countries with 4.4 per cent this year and 4.2 per cent in 1991.

A decision on both the arrears to the fund and the new contributions to its resources may come at the semi-annual meetings.

Sullivan said that the fund used to insist that borrowers keep up to date on their debts to banks but gave up the practice about a year ago. That was when major governments were becoming more sympathetic to the idea of reducing Third World debt.

Early last year, President George Bush announced his readiness to forgive \$1 billion worth of debts owed to the United States by the poorest countries by the poorest countries.

In the Third World it jumps east Asian "tigers" like South Korea with laggards in Africa and Latin America as developing countries. It saw their production

at rising 4.5 per cent next year and then by 1995 to the five per cent level of the 1970s.

"The increase in growth projected for these countries rests heavily on the assumption that adjustment policies are successful in bringing down inflation and improving the climate for domestic savings and investment," the report said.

Peru is the only country on both lists.

Rosy outlook

But I saw little scope for Africa to recoup its losses of income in the 1980s.

The fund's rosier forecast was for Asia — 8.7 per cent by next year, despite a downward revision for China.

It also foresees a marked improvement in growth rates for Eastern Europe, though the uncertainties of recent changes and those to come made it wary of exact projections.

"With their relatively skilled work forces, the countries of Eastern Europe could emerge as a source of dynamism for Europe and, to a lesser extent, for the world economy," it said.

Asian bank closes meeting with problems unresolved

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The Asian Development Bank closed its 23rd annual meeting Friday with the United States and other industrial nations split over re-establishing a soft loan fund.

Washington and Tokyo also appeared to be odds about loans to China.

The disputes, previously been confined to behind-the-scenes talks, emerged during the three-day meeting.

The first argument concerns the replenishment of the Asia Development Fund, the bank's soft loan facility. The second problem revolves around a resumption of \$490 million in Asian Development Bank loans to China. The loans were frozen after the bloody June 4 crackdown in China.

Representatives of France, West Germany, Italy and Canada called on the bank to begin speedy negotiations to replenish the current soft loan fund. The United States wants to delay the talks.

Bank estimates say the fund will run dry by the middle of next year. Delegates from the United States say the fund will not be enough for another two years.

India and China have both applied for access to the fund, which provides low-interest loans to Asia's poorer countries. Indian and Chinese officials say money from the fund is critical to their development plans and any delay would set back their countries' progress.

The United States has opposed

speedy talks on Asian loans because of financial commitments to the World Bank and the reforming economies of Eastern Europe. Victor Frank Jr., head of the U.S. delegation to the bank, said the United States has yet to even back the applications of India and China to borrow from the fund.

Loans to China

The United States and Japan appeared to be at loggerheads over a resumption of loans to China.

But Larry Butcher, a State Department official, pointed to China's abandoning of its reform programme as the reason for the freeze.

Starting in the summer of 1988, China began to dismantle a programme to introduce market mechanisms into its state-run economy.

However, development loans to China were only stopped after the crackdown in June and a deterioration of U.S.-China relations.

China's jobless rate as measured by a household survey was up from the 5.2 per cent registered in March. Before that, the unemployment rate had held steady at 5.3 per cent for nine months.

The last time the jobless rate reached 5.4 per cent was September 1988.

The number of new jobs created edged up only slightly, with a net gain of 64,000. There would have been a decline, had not 78,000 temporary census workers been hired.

The labour department's survey of employers, from which the job growth figure is derived, is often considered a more reliable indicator of economic activity than the household survey from which the overall unemployment rate is calculated.

The nation's manufacturing sector, which has been in a slump for months, continued to falter as factory jobs fell by 22,000.

Meanwhile, the service sector, which has been carrying the economy, added 179,000 jobs but that was artificially bolstered with the census workers jobs.

Labour costs, which have been speeding upward and are blamed for worsening the nation's inflation problems, continued to increase, although moderately, today's report showed.

Average hourly earnings posted a 0.3 per cent rise in April to \$9.95, up from the \$9.52 the average worker earned an hour in March.

Some analysts had predicted that if April's labour costs rose by a sizable chunk, it might prompt the Federal Reserve (FED) to raise interest rates in an effort to hold down inflation. The FED's next meeting is May 15.

However, economists noted that at least part of last month's rise in labour costs was due to the April 1 increase in the minimum wage, which went from \$3.35 an hour to \$3.85.

It supplies jet engines and high speed transmissions for the aerospace industry, including components to French jet engine manufacturer Snecma.

BMW said it expects total investments of up to one billion marks (\$560 million) over the next 10 years in the venture. A spokesman said Rolls Royce would bring know-how to the venture and therefore probably less of the investment.

Rolls Royce, BMW

Link-up receives support

BOON (R) — West German car maker BMW and British aerospace group Rolls-Royce Pic won share investors' support on Friday after announcing a joint venture in aircraft engines.

The deal takes Bayerische Motoren Werke AG back to basics. It made aeroengines from its founding in 1916 until 1959. Its distinctive blue and white marques, symbolises a touring propeller.

The new venture, announced Thursday, will be based in Oberursel, near Frankfurt, and will be 50.5 per cent owned by BMW and the rest by the British firm.

BMW said it was taking over the aerospace activities of Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz AG (KHD) to bring into the venture.

BMW shares were up 12 Deutschemarks (37.14) towards the close of business on the Frankfurt bourse Friday at 616 marks (\$366.65).

In London, shares in Rolls-

Royce, which is no longer related to luxury car maker Rolls-Royce Motors Cars Ltd., were up around five pence (\$0.8) at midday at £2 (\$3.30).

Many stock analysts were initially puzzled by BMW's foray into the aircraft engine field, seeing it as an abrupt change in its previous diversification strategy.

BMW currently holds stakes in several smaller companies, including ones in the electronics and software businesses.

But other analysts said BMW's choice of Rolls-Royce Pic as partner in the aeroengine field was a wise move.

"It gives them an opportunity to get their hand in this sector without devoting an inordinate amount of management time," said Stephen Reitman of UBS Phillips and Drew in London.

Rolls-Royce is one of the three biggest aeroengine producers, after United Technologies Corp's

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sport injury transmits AIDS

LONDON (R) — A footballer caught the AIDS virus when he collided with an infected player on the pitch, according to a group of Italian doctors writing in a British medical weekly. In a letter published in the *Lancet*, they said that during a match last December, a 25-year-old man bumped into another player, a drug user known to have the HIV virus which causes AIDS. Both bled heavily from severe injuries around the eyebrows. The first man had been HIV negative a year previously but two months after the incident he was found to be positive. Doctors concluded that he was infected during his collision on the pitch since nothing in his behaviour indicated that he could have picked up the virus elsewhere. British AIDS expert, Dr. Donald Jeffries of London's St. Mary's Hospital, said it appeared to be the first time the virus had been transmitted through a sports injury.

More seeds lose in W. Germany

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Aaron Krickstein of the United States and Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany became the latest seeded players to fall at the BMW Open men's tennis tournament, losing in the second round Thursday. Krickstein, seeded second, was ousted 6-2, 7-6 by 69th-ranked Czechoslovak Karel Novacek. Steeb, seeded fifth, was downed 7-5, 6-4 by compatriot and Davis Cup teammate Jens Woehrmann, ranked 77th in the world. Jim Courier of the United States, the no. 4 seed who advanced to quarterfinals Wednesday, is the only seed remaining in the \$277,500 tournament. Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden bowed out in the second round Wednesday and third seed Michael Chang of the United States was beaten in first-round play Monday. In other second-round action, Pet Korda of Czechoslovakia downed Kevin Curren of the United States 7-5, 6-1 and Swedish qualifier Christian Bergstrom defeated West German Udo Riglewin 6-1, 6-0. Krickstein said a two-day break between his first- and second-round matches spoiled his rhythm. He said he also had trouble with the blustery conditions. Novacek, relying on a heavy serve, also proved to be a difficult opponent.

Rosset eliminates Sanchez

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez Vicario of Spain became the second top player to fall early at the 19th Madrid Grand Prix tennis tournament Thursday, losing to Marc Rosset of Switzerland 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the second round. Andres Gomez of Ecuador, seeded second in the \$279,000 tournament, advanced to the quarter-finals after rallying to beat Diego Perez of Uruguay 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-0. Sanchez Vicario, the world's seventh-ranked player after his recent victory over West German ace Boris Becker in Monaco, seemed at the top of his game until he ran into the 47th-ranked Rosset, who scored 18 service winners and was broken only once. Top seed Jay Berger of the United States lost his opening match Tuesday, leaving Gomez favoured to take his second-straight Spanish tournament after winning the Count of Godo tournament in Barcelona. In the quarter-finals, Rosset was to face Spaniard Marcos Gorriti. Gorriti defeated Jerome Poitier, who forfeited because of an eye injury midway through their match. Poitier had won the first set 6-4 and was losing the second 4-5.

Raab wins 10th leg in mass sprint

LEON, Spain (AP) — East German sprint specialist Uwe Raab won the 10th leg of the 45th Tour of Spain cycling race Thursday, beating out the main pack in a mass dash to the finish line. Spaniard Julian Gorospe remains the overall leader of the 22-stage race, which was dominated Thursday by word that Belgian rider Nico Emonds had failed an anti-doping test. Emonds denied taking the prohibited substance allegedly present in his urine and his team asked for a second analysis. Raab covered the 230 kilometers (143 miles) from Penarronda De Bracamonte in 5 hours and 20 minutes.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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SLIP ONE, KNIT TWO!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	♦ K Q 10 9 7 5
♦ J 10	♦ 8 7 4 3
♦ Q	♦ 6
WEST	♦ 3 2
♦ 5 3	♦ K Q 9 8 7 6 5
♦ Q 10 9 6 5	♦ K 8 2
♦ J 6	♦ 10 5
EAST	♦ A
♦ A 7 6 4	♦ 9 8 7 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 7 6 5	♦ 4 3 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

Opening lead: Six ♠.

We are indebted to 5th Column, published by District 5 of the American Contract Bridge League, for today's hand. The bidding was not given, but it might have gone as shown.

Since a jump to three clubs would not be forcing, South creates a one-round force by rebidding at the two-level in a suit ranking higher than his original strain. North's four diamonds is a cue-bid implying

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Nabila Obaid in
THE DANCER &
THE POLITICIAN
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Al Saleh wins Al Rumman race

By Muneem Fakhouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday participated along with 43 competitors in Al Rumman hill climb race in a Mercedes car. His Majesty clocked the three-kilometre race distance in 2:20 minutes equaling his record time last year, and recording a speed of 126 kilometres per hour in the climb.

The first place in the race went to Mohammad Al Saleh since His Majesty's participation in the race was an honorary contribution. Saleh's total time in the race was 4:11.86 minutes for the best two rounds out of three. This was Saleh's second participation in the race.

The second place in the race was occupied by Haidam Al Mufti in 4:24.16 minutes followed by George Khayyat in the third place in 4:24.45 minutes. Issa Halabi came in the fourth place, Hassan Al Tabaa in the fifth while the sixth place went to Hassan Al-Uddin, the seventh to Sinan Al Saoudi, the eighth to Ghaiti Bibi, the ninth to George Lama and the tenth to Tareq Al Tabaa.

The race was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, Their Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Princess Alia Al Faisal, Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein and a number of princes and the Royal family members.

His Majesty King Hussein called in a press statement to give the opportunity to qualified youth to participate in realities



Mohammad Al Saleh smiles after winning Al Rumman hill climb race while His Majesty prepares for his honorary participation (Photo by Yousef Al Alian).



RATEB AL DAOUD, captain of Al Ramtha Club, receives the cup from His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein who deputised for His Majesty in the Cup Winners Cup soccer championship. Al Ramtha beat Al Faisali 3-0 in the match held Friday at Al Hussein Youth City (Photo by Abdallah Ayyoub)

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Kentucky Derby kicks off today

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (R) — The 116th Kentucky Derby Saturday has a horse for just about anyone's taste from smart businessman down to the little guy.

The same goes for misnamed Killer Diller, who drew the second position and is also an early 50-1 bet. Pendleton Ridge will come out of the third gate.

Traitor D. Wayne Lukas, who has saddled 14 derby contenders, winning once with winning colours, will send three more hopefuls on to the track Saturday.

Land Rush, Power Lunch and Real Cash were set at 8-1 bets. Lukas said this year's field has better horses than those of the past couple of years and cautions against placing too much emphasis on the early odds or on the ability to change tactics in the derby.

"We get a false favourite because of the media and the advertising campaign. This is going to be a race of position, I don't think you can make many adjustments in this type of race with this much quality."

"Remember they're creatures of habit. They will not reverse their habit," Lukas said.

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Ruling party suffers sweeping losses in U.K. local elections

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives suffered stunning defeats in local elections, going down across the country to the socialists' strongest performance since she won power 11 years ago.

But the Conservatives averted the rout forecast in opinion polls before the elections. The Labour Party had tried to turn the campaign into a referendum on Thatcher's third term and an unpopular new local tax.

"The result of the referendum is a defeat for the government, a smashing win for Labour," said Bryan Gould, a Labour Party campaign manager. "We're delighted."

Thatcher, however, was undaunted. She proclaimed the results were "a very good base from which to go on to win the next general election."

"Overall, the opinion polls have been confounded," the prime minister said Friday in a morning-after interview with Press Association, Britain's main news agency.

Though it won control in 10 new local councils, Labour lost to the Conservatives in the London borough of Ealing, where Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock makes his home.

Gould dismissed that loss. "I am sure Neil's residence in Ealing is extremely welcome to his immediate neighbours, but I don't think it is a big factor in terms of

people's voting preferences," he said.

For the first time James Callaghan's Labour government lost power to Mrs. Thatcher in 1979, the socialist party made significant gains in Britain's prosperous south, considered a Conservative stronghold.

The Conservatives, in deep trouble over the economy and the so-called poll tax, lost control of a clutch of previously safe southern English towns, including Portsmouth, Torbay and Gillingham.

They failed to gain ground in northern England and remained virtually wiped out in Scotland.

With results declared early Friday from 192 of the 201 local council races, Labour had won control in 10 new areas, giving it the majority of 89 councils. The Conservatives, who had controlled 60 councils, lost 12 of them and gained four, giving the Tories a total of 52 councils.

The third running centrist Social and Liberal Democratic Party lost three councils and gained two. No party had overall control in the rest of the races.

After 192 councils were declared, a tally by the Press Association showed the Tories with a

net loss of 205 seats while Labour gained 303 seats. The centrists and minor parties, except the Scottish Nationalists and the Greens, all had net losses.

A computer analysis by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) showed an 11 per cent swing in most of the country against the government since 1987 — the year Thatcher won her third term. That 11 per cent would be enough to give Labour a comfortable win in a general election.

But the Conservatives had feared even worse results. Pre-election opinion polls had forecast a rout, which did not quite occur. National polls showed the Tories trailing by 20 percentage points.

"Not a marvelous result, but certainly not the disaster that was being predicted," said Environment Secretary Chris Patten, the cabinet minister in charge of the poll tax. "...It's the massacre that didn't happen."

The latest Gallup poll, published Friday in London's pro-Conservative newspaper the Daily Telegraph, showed just 23 per cent of the voters are satisfied with Thatcher's performance in office. It was the worst rating for any British leader since opinion polling began some 50 years ago.

Thatcher's ratings began sliding a year ago as inflation rose and the government raised interest rates. The inflation has continued unchecked.



Vietnamese refugees in an overcrowded boat sail the South China Sea

Boat people-15 years on, the problem is worse

HONG KONG (R) — Fifteen years after images of Vietnamese boat people fleeing their homeland first shocked the world, the problem is worse than ever.

Most of the early refugees were resettled quickly in a sympathetic West, but South East Asian countries are still grappling with the problem with little prospect of a solution.

"It's an appalling phrase, but there's only one way to describe it — compassion fatigue. Major resettlement countries like the United States, France, Britain, Australia and Canada have had enough," said a senior diplomat with long experience of the issue.

"The only way open to these people now is to go back. Meanwhile the South East Asian countries are caught in the middle," he added.

Thousands of Vietnamese are still streaming out of the country — Indonesia has taken 5,000 since January, just over 1,400 have arrived in Hong Kong and 3,900 have reached Thailand.

But Vietnam's economy

Hong Kong now has 54,000 in camps and detention centres, Thailand more than 15,000, the Philippines 26,000 and Malaysia, which has 20,000 Vietnamese, is now reported to be pushing boats away.

Robert Van Leeuwen, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees chief in Hong Kong, said although arrivals in the colony were down 66 per cent over the same period last year, the overall arrival rate for the region was only 15 per cent lower.

International efforts to reach a solution over the years have achieved mixed results. The 1979 Geneva conference adopted the first asylum policy which initially worked well, with South East Asian countries giving asylum to arrivals on the basis of resettlement pledges from the West.

But Vietnam's economy

plunged deeper into the red because of a U.S.-led trade embargo after Hanoi's invasion of

neighbouring Cambodia. A new kind of boat person appeared —

economic migrants, mainly from the impoverished north.

Previous arrivals had been mainly southerners, many of them former officials and military personnel from the U.S.-backed Saigon government.

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on the allegations that the boat people were being pushed away, instead accusing Vietnam of lacking the political will to implement fully the CPA.

Hong Kong, frustrated at the slow pace of the voluntary repatriation programme under which just under 2,000 have flown to Hanoi in the year it has been operating, is once again pushing for forced repatriation.

Hong Kong officials are expected to press for regional agreement on forced repatriation at a meeting on the progress of the CPA in Manila later this month.

Many officials say the overall situation lies in Vietnam, with its legacy of more or less constant war since the Japanese occupation in World War II.

"If you can't feed your family, then you grasp at a slender chance and try to go somewhere where you can," said a Western diplomat in Hong Kong.

Car bomb kills 5 in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — A car bomb destroyed a supermarket Thursday night, killing five people and wounding 23 in an attack which could signal a new feud between powerful Colombian cocaine cartels.

The 100-kilogramme bomb ripped through central Cali, 300 kilometres southwest of Bogota, destroying the La Rejona supermarket and damaging 20 shops and houses, a police spokesman said.

Dozens of branches of La Rejona, a national chain, were attacked during a bloody feud between the Medellin and Cali cocaine cartels from 1987 to 1989.

The chain has been linked in published accounts to Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, also known as "the chess player," the reputed head of the Cali cartel.

The two cartels, which together

supply 80 per cent of the cocaine used in the United States, clashed then over control of the lucrative American markets.

A police spokesman in Cali said five people were killed, including a three-year-old child, and 23 injured in the blast. No one claimed responsibility.

Firefighters tackled a blaze

which raged through the supermarket. Electricity in the area was cut, local radio said.

Violence has swept Colombia since a tentative truce between the drug cartels and the government broke down in late March and the drug traffickers declared a new offensive.

The violence as focused on Medellin, headquarters of the most powerful cocaine cartel, where 30 people have been killed in two car bomb blasts and about 30 policemen shot dead in the past month.

The attacks spread to Cali Wednesday when four policemen were injured in a bomb blast at a police station.

Police also blame drug barons for the murder of two leftist presidential candidates assassinated since March although the drug lords deny the charge.

Officials feared the Kim's death might be used to stir up more trouble. Police in Changwon said their pre-dawn raid was at the request of the dead worker's family, who opposed a large "political" funeral planned by militant workers.

The government announced new measures Thursday to cut the risk of assassination for candidates in the May 27 presidential election. It increased television and radio time for the four leading candidates and said it would give money to each candidate to pay for newspaper advertising and transport.

U.S. scientists grow human brain cells in the laboratory

WASHINGTON (R) — Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells in the laboratory.

"To our knowledge, no one has ever been able to grow neurons from the brain, probably from any animal, much less a human," said Dr. Solomon Snyder, a neuroscientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where the breakthrough occurred.

The achievement, which is described in Science magazine, published Friday, has profound implications for scientists' understanding of the nervous system and for controversial U.S. research into the treatment of degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease with transplanted foetal tissue.

Neurons are the cells that make up the body's nerves, spinal cord and brain. They are different from other cells in that they normally do not divide. When

cells do not divide, new cells cannot grow to replace those that are dead or damaged.

"The problem with neurons is that they can't divide. By definition, growing tissue in culture means the cells divide. Now we have them living in a laboratory culture," Snyder said.

The discovery could help scientists to explore using cultured cells in transplants.

Some scientists have been exploring transplants of brain tissue from aborted foetuses as a treatment for such diseases as Parkinson's.

But, in a move that outraged the U.S. scientific community, the U.S. government has banned federal funding for such research, arguing that it would promote abortions.

"In principle, anything that one could do with a foetal tissue transplant, one could do with this just as well if not better," Snyder said.

The Johns Hopkins researchers already are collaborating with transplant experts, designing new experiments, he said.

The researchers obtained the cells for their culture from the brain of a patient undergoing surgery for the treatment of uncontrollable seizures.

Cells from the patient's cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that plays a key role in consciousness, memory, thought and intellect, were removed and immediately placed in a laboratory culture.

After 21 days, two small clusters of the cells had survived, which the scientists then cloned.

The researchers used various tests to ensure the resulting cells were representative of normal brain cells and then treated them with different combinations of nutrients and hormones to stimulate their growth and development.

S. Korea police raid morgue to seize worker's body

SEOUL (AP) — Police raided a hospital morgue to seize the body of a labour activist guarded by militant workers, but labour unrest around the nation showed signs of easing Friday, reports said.

About 600 riot police charged into the hospital in the southern industrial town of Changwon before dawn, took the body of the dead worker, Kim Young-il, and returned it to his family for burial, news reports said.

Kim, a 28-year-old labour activist at the Tongil Industry Co. in Changwon, 340 kilometres south of Seoul, leaped to his death from a two-storey building at his plant Thursday after drowning himself with paint thinner and 30 policemen shot dead in the past month.

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The South Korean news agency, Yonhap, said about 200 militant workers guarding the morgue were overpowered by police wielding clubs and shields. Police arrested 149 workers, it said.

Widening labour protests turned violent last Saturday, when about 12,000 police stormed the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. shipyard in Ulsan, the world's largest, to quell a three-day strike demanding the release of jailed union leaders.

Workers of several dozen plants in Ulsan, an industrial city 320 kilometres southeast of Seoul, and other regions have staged sympathy strikes.

A local newspaper, citing an unidentified government party official, reported Friday that President Roh Tae-woo will cut short a planned international tour because of the political and labour unrest.

Although there was no official announcement, government officials have said informally that Roh was planning to visit the United States, Canada and Mexico later this month after a four-day state visit to Japan starting on

May 24.

The Joongang Daily News said Roh will visit Japan as scheduled, but may cancel plans to make a trip to the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The paper said leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party have recommended that Roh cut short the overseas trip to have more time to tackle urgent domestic problems. Besides the labour unrest, leaders are concerned at mounting public discontent with the Roh administration, whose popularity hit an all-time low of 12 per cent in a recent public poll by the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Hyundai officials in Seoul said about half of the 100,000 workers at their 13 subsidiaries in Ulsan were back to work Friday.

They said they expected further improvement in the situation after 27,000 workers of the Hyundai Motor Co., the nation's largest automaker, voted Friday to return to work Monday. The vote ended a week of sympathy strikes protesting police action to crush the strike at the nearby Hyundai Shipyard.

COLUMN

Pavarotti conquers Bolshoi Theatre

MOSCOW (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti's perfect tenor resounded through the famed Bolshoi Theatre for the first time Thursday and conquered an elite crowd that included President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa. Pavarotti, grinning broadly and extending his arms expansively to the crowd, sang four encores to increasingly loud cries of "bravo" and insistent rhythmic applause from the audience. The Italian star dedicated one of the encores to Mrs. Gorbachev, seated in a box just to the left of the stage, and met briefly with the Soviet president and his wife backstage after the sold-out performance. The Gorbachevs joined in warmly applauding Pavarotti, on his third trip to the Soviet Union and his first in 15 years. They could be seen in animated conversation about the programme during pauses in the performance. Theatre workers said Moscowites hoping to buy up the few available tickets began queuing at 2 a.m., 10 hours before the box office opened. The theatre was sealed off by uniformed police and only those with tickets could get through the cordon.

Italian jailed for biting off wife's tongue

PATRAS, Greece (R) — An Italian tourist has been jailed after biting off part of his wife's tongue during a passionate kiss in the back of a taxi. Giorgio Pasquello, 29, was charged with inflicting serious bodily injuries and ordered held in custody until a district attorney decides whether to send the case to trial. Pasquello and his wife Aziza, 24, hired a taxi to take them to the western port of Patras. The driver said they were kissing passionately in the back seat when he heard the woman cry out. He turned around and saw the couple covered in blood. They were hysterical but I could not understand Italian. I drove them to the nearest hospital and doctors said almost half her tongue was bitten off," the driver said. After a surgeon sowed her tongue together, she told police: "We were kissing but suddenly Giorgio went wild and started biting me. I tried to push him off but he overpowered me. The pain was terrible." Before being taken to jail, Pasquello said: "I cannot understand why I was charged. Many officials say the overall

situation lies in Vietnam, with its legacy of more or less constant war since the Japanese occupation in World War II.

"If you can't feed your family, then you grasp at a slender chance and try to go somewhere where you can," said a Western diplomat in Hong Kong.

MacLaine suspends music review until June

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shirley MacLaine has suspended her one-woman musical revue "Out There Tonight" until June because of a knee injury. Miss MacLaine, 56, will undergo arthroscopic surgery this week on her right knee to remove floating pieces of torn cartilage, publicist Dale Olson has said. The entertainer fell on stage in Seattle during a March 2 performance of the show. She continued the tour for three weeks to San Francisco before the injury flared up during rehearsals, Olson said. The injury will force the postponement of a five-week run of "Out There Tonight" at the Pantages Theatre. The engagement was rescheduled to begin on Aug. 28. She is expected to pick up the tour on June 12 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Australian gives birth in bubble

SYDNEY (R) — A former Australian beauty queen, with an allergy to 20th century chemicals, gave birth to a baby girl in a porcelain bubble she calls home. Debra Paolotto, 26, was in 1983 diagnosed as having an "environmental illness" which caused her to faint and vomit when she smelt chemical vapours given off by modern materials like plastic or perfume. Last June the former Miss Sunshine Coast retreated to a hideout on the central Queensland coast, spending the whole day in a steel bubble coated with vapourless porcelain. Her husband Christian and Wednesday Debra had given birth to a girl, Elsie